



WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES Newsletter



Friendship ~ Prayer ~ Service

Dear Sisters, Associates and Friends,



Welcome to our Newsletter after what seems to have been a long, drawn out time of silence and isolation. Please God we have been people of hope in our families and have supported community ideals to stay healthy and happy. For some, this has been a time of psychological and physical stress and even, painful loss. We pray for them especially, understanding that it is in such silence and suffering that we can draw closer to God who sustains all life. May the "fallow field" existence of COVID 19 welcome a springtime period of regrowth, recommitment, and reconnection.



You are reminded that 17 October 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of our much-loved St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Australia's first saint. To mark this anniversary the Sisters of St Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of St Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil to honour Mary throughout September and October. Please read the IJALT Newsflash and respond to their invitation to join in the online launch of the

Josephite Companion name, emblem, and prayers on 17 October.

In this issue some Josephite Associates have shared their experiences of life in our altered COVID 19 mode. The spirit of St Mary of the Cross is evident in their individual and powerful reflections. Thank you to those who have contributed.

May you be enlivened by the warm sunshine, colourful blossoms, and all other gifts of springtime.

Yours in friendship, prayer and service,

Yours, Dot Savage for Dardanup, Metro & Esperance Groups



"Gratitude is the memory of the heart"

MMK 1907

*Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*

Reflections on COVID Life

Professionally, Covid 19 has been a time when leadership skills came to the fore as teachers, parents and students faced great uncertainty in providing remote learning. Personally, it was a time when I drew my children (young adults) closer to me providing for their needs while they attended Uni studies on-line. The past few weeks have seen Georgia return to her studies in Perth, while Nick has served in the ADF on the border between NSW and Victoria while also attending to Uni on-line lectures. He has completed quarantine in Perth. COVID 19 was a time of great anxiety yet pride in them both for their dedication and commitment. My prayers were certainly answered.

- Helen B



Maud and Helen

For most of the Pandemic shutdown I was confined to hospital facing serious health concerns. During that time, I was shut off from all but one of the people from whom I drew strength and love. I relied on the compassion and care of the hospital staff and for them I thank God. I appreciated the many thoughts and prayers of friends, family, and Josephite Associates. The Little Brown Book gave me inspiration to face the struggles of each passing day. I am totally convinced that my trust in God and my spiritual connection with St Mary of the Cross has brought me to where I am today, recuperating at home with family and friends. During this time of personal challenge, Neil and I also welcomed three great grandchildren Kensie, Camilla and Chloe, all proof of God's love and care.

- Maud M

During the last 4/5 months, being in "lockdown", I contacted an adoption firm in London to help me learn of my family background. I asked Associates for lots of prayers and sought help from our friend, Mary M. I always said it never bothered me being adopted and it is true, but after finding out my story, I cannot express the happiness I feel! I was born in Carlisle on the border of Scotland and England. Unfortunately, my mother died in 1980 and sad to say, I never got to meet her, but I now have a half-sister, (to me she is my sister, and I do not bother about the half!) When I found out, I was so anxious as to whether I should contact her. My question was, What if she doesn't want to hear from me, or doesn't want to remember me?' Anyway I did.....She remembered me being born, she was six years of age, and told me, she often wondered what happened to me. It's a long story, but she's so happy I contacted her, and we now talk regularly. I have an extended family, who treat me as one of their own and they are so pleased I made the search.

My mother was a Catholic and had me baptized at two weeks old. That tells me what kind of person she was.

- Irene R

Whereas Covid19 came as a shock to me, the lockdown was not hard on me. The closing of the Churches was at first, until I found the streaming of Mass online. I found so much solace in this. They took me through Lent and Easter. I found great pleasure in joining my friends from my homeland in Scotland, for the Holy Mass. As fate would have it, at the beginning of May I also found daily Rosary and Mass from the Carfin Grotto in Glasgow streaming online. Carfin is wonderful – it is a mini version of Lourdes. This really was the icing on the cake for me! Through this, I have rekindled some old friendships. I prayed daily for those who were affected emotionally by the Virus. I also thanked God for the happy times that I have experienced during this pandemic.

- Marg J

Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown the Core Group had decided that we should be represented in our local church community in any way, where we were to be seen serving the community following Mary's example in her community, giving service where it was needed especially to the sick and housebound. In my own life because of a disability I had given up service as a Eucharistic Minister at Mass after 25 years. However, I volunteered for taking the Holy Eucharist to the sick at home. Taking Holy Eucharist to the sick became more meaningful as my friend Maud became ill during the lockdown and once she was home it is with great joy my husband and I went to Mass and took the Holy Eucharist to her. Then we enjoyed a visit while we had a cuppa and a chat it gave the men time to talk and have a laugh. This, of late, has been a really happy hour as Maud's results have been positive.

- Helen W



We are all missing our meeting time in South Perth and the close companionship we share with the Sisters. One of the highlights for me during COVID 19 was to view the Mass streamed from Adelaide on 8 August, the feast of St Mary of the Cross. This was simply wonderful! Archbishop Patrick O'Regan's homily was outstanding and his image of the tree at Penola left a deep impression. He spoke of the roots holding the tree firmly as it grew towards the heavens. He likened St Mary of the Cross to that tree as she held herself with dignity while maintaining strong faith throughout her extraordinary life. After the mass I drew myself a tree, giving it strong roots to represent our Josephite ideals-trust in God, faith and courage in adversity, respect and dignity for every person, companionable support for those in need, a practical living out of Gospel values, regular prayer and service in situations where it is required.

- Louisa M

Around the WA Groups

The *Metropolitan* group is looking forward to reconnecting with a Christmas gathering to be held on the tentative date 13 December. Please check with Louisa (0438 616 228) or Laura (9334 0999) to see if this gathering is going ahead closer to the date.

Dardanup gatherings have been deferred until February 2021. Further details will be in the summer issue of our Newsletter. Our group is actively involved in the recognition of Mary's anniversary. All other aspects of friendship, prayer and service continue as usual. Efforts have been made to increase visits to the sick and members have enjoyed regular contact through flyers and emails.

Esperance will continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month following Mass and recital of the rosary. Helen's mini newsletters are full of information, prayer and well wishes for those who are ill.



Bits and Pieces



✚ **Thank you!**

A big thank you to all those who continue to send donations for the production of the Newsletter. Donations are all very much appreciated.

✚ **Email Addresses**

This is a request made to all members to update their email addresses so that Newsletters can be sent electronically and so, save on postage costs etc.

✚ **Order Your Josephite Calendar**

The 2021 Josephite Calendar will be available shortly, please order your copy ASAP by completing the enclosed/attached form. Be quick, there is a limited number this year.

WA JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES GATHERINGS, NEWS & EVENTS



SOUTH PERTH GATHERINGS



ENQUIRIES: Louisa Moore - 0438 616 228, email wa.associates@sosj.org.au

SUMMER GATHERING (TENTATIVE) SUNDAY 13 December

- ✚ 2.00pm ~ Time for greeting one another, 'Bring & Buy' and Raffle
- ✚ 2.30pm ~ Prayer in Chapel, followed by afternoon tea and drawing of the raffle in the Function Room
- ✚ **Where:** St Joseph's Convent, 16 York Street, South Perth
- ✚ **Bring:** A plate of food to share | Kris Kringle to the value of \$10
A friend | Bring & Buy item

PLEASE CHECK!

13 December (tentative)

Please check with Louisa (0438 616 228) or Laura in the office (9334 0999) to see if gathering is going ahead closer to the date.

All Welcome!

DARDANUP GATHERINGS

ENQUIRIES:

Dot Savage: (08) 9791 4008 or email Dot: helenbrown.hb@gmail.com
Irene Rodgers: 0423 488 018 or email Irene: irenerodgers1@bigpond.com



VENUE - Parish Meeting House Centre, St Patrick's Cathedral Bunbury

TENTATIVE MEETING DATE FOR 2021

10 February 2021 (Day of Reflection)

ESPERANCE GATHERINGS

ENQUIRIES: Helen Johnston: (08) 9071 1256 or email: donaldjohnston@bigpond.com



3rd Thursday of each month: Mass, Rosary, sharing...

Dates to Remember

16 OCTOBER @ 8pm (local WA time)

1 hour Global vigil to celebrate 10th anniversary of Mary's canonisation

16 - 17 OCTOBER

Online launch of the Josephite Companion name, emblem, and prayer

Gone to God

'Remember, we are all but travellers here' MMK

Sr Anita Gallagher rsj

Sr Edith Prince rsj

Ron Padgurkskis - Husband of Kath - Esperance



Dear Associates, if you are aware of any associate/relative/
friend who has passed away,

can you please email or ring the office:

wa.associates@sosj.org.au or [08] 9334 0999



WA Josephite Associates

*Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the
Canonisation of
St Mary of the Cross*



REFLECT AND PRAY ~ *The Little Brown Book* (SGL Kane)

Lord teach us to pray (Luke 11:1)

All depends on prayer. Begin with it and end with it.

MMK 1890

You shall love your neighbour as yourself (Lev.19:18)

*Love one another and let charity guide you in all
your life.* MMK 1909

My peace I leave with you (John 14:27)

Keep your mind in peace whatever happens. MMK 1890

My joy may be in you (John 15:11)

God is so very good to us all. MMK 1872

Spring 2020

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven

When we feel insignificant and have lost our sense of worth, Lord teach us to pray.

Hallowed be thy name

When we want to withdraw and be with you in prayer, Lord teach us to pray

Thy Kingdom come

When we think of the future as fixed and impossible to change. Lord teach us to pray

Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven

When we evade life's deep demands by saying they are too idealistic. Lord teach us to pray

Give us this day our daily bread

When we are satisfied and forget that others are hungry. Lord teach us to pray

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

When we allow bitterness and resentment into our lives. Lord teach us to pray.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
Amen

When we are faced with the pressures that are likely to be too much for us. Lord teach us to pray.





God's Mission



The reign of God is like this...

Mark 4:26-29

CARRIERS OF A NEW VISION

As people of God
we are carriers of Jesus' dream that all may be one,
loved and accepted as persons of immeasurable value.

As members of the Church,
we are carriers of the Spirit's dream to participate in the mission of Jesus
who frees the oppressed and brings new life.

May we be barriers of hope, of light and of life for all.

**We are called to be people of prayer,
servants of the Word,
open and vulnerable to its transforming power.**

May your Word help us reflect the Heart of Jesus.

We are barriers of life, nurturing it in all of its myriad manifestations.

**We are the sustainers of the human family,
Weaving a network of relationships in our local communities,
uniting the global community.**

May we weave a cloth of inclusion and acceptance of all.

**We are called to be people of the Gospel,
to be people who identify with the Heart of Christ,
committed in our efforts to become a community of disciples.**

May we live simply, love tenderly, act justly.

May we go forth in witness and filled with the mission of Christ,
May we be carriers of the vision which brings life
In all richness and abundance,
bringing the message of the Heart of Christ to all
as we seek to live the spirit of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives. Amen



Intercessions

- ✚ Most holy and loving God, Jesus was the source and inspiration of Mary MacKillop's life, in gratitude: we pray ... we praise, we bless you, we glorify you.
- ✚ With great trust in your providence, Mary MacKillop was open and ready to meet the needs of her time: grant that we may meet the challenges of today's world with faith and courage.
- ✚ Mary suffered misunderstanding and wrongful excommunication with peace and humility: May we also bear with peace and humility any difficulties we meet.
- ✚ Mary had a deep love of your will and a readiness to embrace the cross: grant us the courage to follow her in accepting all that is painful in our lives.
- ✚ Mary MacKillop spent her life caring for the poor and destitute and educating the children of the poor: grant that we may bring love and compassion to all whom we serve.



Josephite Companion Prayer



*Companioning Spirit,
Intensify our living of the Josephite charism now
as you inspired St Joseph, St Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.
Grace us with friendship and hospitality,
as we make community in the ordinariness of our lives.
Grace us with prayerful hearts that listen to your voice
and contemplate your presence in creation.
Grace us with service,
promoting human dignity and love of neighbour.
Strengthen our commitment to live justly, love tenderly and walk humbly,
conscious that we are participating in your mission.
Companion, encourage and enfold us in the fullness of divine love.
Amen*

